

What is claimed is:

1. A process for increasing the hydrophilicity of a polymer comprising adding to the polymer an effective amount of a di- C₁₀₋₁₂ fatty acid ester of polyethylene glycol.

2. The process of claim 1 wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of from about 300 to about 600.

3. The process of claim 2 wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of about 400.

4. The process of claim 1 wherein the effective amount is from about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of the polymer.

5. The process of claim 4 wherein the effective amount is from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the polymer.

6. The process of claim 5 wherein the effective amount is from about 1.0% to about 2.5% by weight of the polymer.

7. The process of claim 1 wherein the ester is di-laurate ester of polyethylene glycol.

8. The process of claim 7 wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of about 400.

9. The process of claim 1 wherein the ester is di-decanoate ester of polyethylene glycol.

10. A process for making a synthetic polypropylene fiber having increased hydrophilicity comprising the steps of: (1) adding an effective amount of a di- C₁₀₋₁₂ fatty acid ester of polyethylene glycol to polypropylene to form a mixture; (2) heating the mixture to form a melt; and

(3) spinning the melt into a fiber.

11. The process of claim 10 wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of from about 300 to about 600.

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12. The process of claim 11 wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of about 400.

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13. The process of claim 10 wherein the effective amount is from about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of the polymer.

14. The process of claim 13 wherein the effective amount is from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the polymer.

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15. The process of claim 14 wherein the effective amount is from about 1.0% to about 2.5% by weight of the polymer.

16. The process of claim 10 wherein the ester is di-laurate ester of polyethylene glycol.

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17. The process of claim 16 wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of about 400.

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18. The process of claim 10 wherein the ester is di-decanoate ester of polyethylene glycol.

19. The process of claim 18 wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of about 400.

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20. A non-woven fabric having increased hydrophilicity which comprises synthetic fibers comprised of a polymer containing an effective amount of a di- C₁₀₋₁₂ fatty acid ester of polyethylene glycol.

21. The non-woven fabric of claim 20 wherein the polyethylene glycol

has a molecular weight of from about 300 to about 600.

22. The non-woven fabric of claim 21 wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of about 400.

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23. The non-woven fabric of claim 20 wherein the effective amount is from about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of the polymer.

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24. The non-woven fabric of claim 23 wherein the effective amount is from about 0.5% to about 5% by weight of the polymer.

25. The non-woven fabric of claim 24 wherein the effective amount is from about 1.0% to about 2.5% by weight of the polymer.

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26. The non-woven fabric of claim 20 wherein the ester is di-laurate ester of polyethylene glycol.

27. The non-woven fabric of claim 26 wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of about 400.

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28. The non-woven fabric of claim 20 wherein the ester is di-decanoate ester of polyethylene glycol.

29. The non-woven fabric of claim 28 wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of about 400.

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30. The non-woven fabric of claim 20 wherein the polymer is polyethylene.

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31. The non-woven fabric of claim 20 wherein the polymer is polypropylene.